

Exodus 36-39 - Thursday, July 30th, 2009

- We only have five more chapters left in this amazing book of Exodus, and we'll turn a corner tonight and for the remainder of our study.
- I know it's hard to believe, but Lord willing, we'll be able to complete the book tonight, so let's jump in and get started in chapter 36:1.

1 "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded."

- The time has now come to roll up their arm sleeves and build the Tabernacle, so we see Bezalel and Aholiab being told to get started.
- We'll begin to notice how they will be told repeatedly that they're to do according to "all" that the Lord has commanded them to do.
- These artists have only heard what God was commanding them to do; now they'll become doers of what God commanded them to do.

2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.3 And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning.

- Here, the Israelites whose hearts were stirred to come and not only give but to do the work as well, and they did it of their own free will.
- Also, we're told that they came to Moses to both do the work and give the offerings. In other words they had both ability and availability.
- I find it interesting how we're told these "freewill offerings" kept coming as they continued to bring them on a daily basis every morning.

4 Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 5 and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do." 6 So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing,7 for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done -- indeed too much.

- This is perhaps one of the most astonishing passages of scripture in the entire Bible. Imagine having to tell people to stop their giving!
- Notice that the giving was not only sufficient for all the work to be done but that it was actually way too much and was not really needed.

- There's something here I would like to mention before we move on to verse 8, here it is; "Moses is demonstrating tremendous integrity."
- If you think about it, he didn't have to do this. We don't read anywhere that God told him to tell the people to stop giving. He just does it.
- The temptation would be to accumulate more than that which was necessary and use it to stockpile or worse yet, to hoard out of greed.

8 Then all the gifted artisans among them who worked on the tabernacle made ten curtains woven of fine linen, and of blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim they made them.9 The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the curtains were all the same size.10 And he coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another.11 He made loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set; likewise he did on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.12 fifty loops he made on one curtain, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain on the end of the second set; the loops held one curtain to another.13 And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains to one another with the clasps, that it might be one tabernacle.

- From here to the end of the book of Exodus, we have a redundant redundancy, meaning all the details of the Tabernacle are repeated.

"This is a repetition of the instructions of chapter 26:1-37, with the persons and tenses of the verbs changed. Such repetition is characteristic both of Israel's literature in general and, in particular, of priestly circles: the book of Ezekiel contains many examples, as does Chronicles. As an architect delights to pore over plans or blueprints, so the pious priest would have rejoiced in this meticulous re-listing of specifications already given."

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- This brings up the question of; "why do all these detailed specifications have to be repeated, and why do we have to study them again?"
- Here are a couple of thoughts to keep in mind as we complete these remaining chapters, with the hopes of not having it be too boring.

- First, I believe that it connects the dots between the commands to build the Tabernacle and the actual building of the Tabernacle.
- Were this detail of the Israelites building the Tabernacle not included in the record, we would be left with just the detailed instructions.
- Second, it's recorded as an example to us of how they did all that the Lord commanded them to do and they finished what they started.
- Third; what this communicates is that God is the God of detail, and is intricately involved in every facet of our lives, no matter how small.

14 He made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains.15 The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the eleven curtains were the same size.16 He coupled five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves.17 And he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain of the second set.18 He also made fifty bronze clasps to couple the tent together, that it might be one.19 Then he made a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that.

- If you're interested in the prophetic significance of all these details, you can download the audio teachings and notes from our website.

20 For the tabernacle he made boards of acacia wood, standing upright.21 The length of each board was ten cubits, and the width of each board a cubit and a half.22 Each board had two tenons for binding one to another. Thus he made for all the boards of the tabernacle.23 And he made boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side.24 forty sockets of silver he made to go under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.25 And for the other side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty boards 26 and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards.27 For the west side of the tabernacle he made six boards.28 He also made two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.29 And they were coupled at the bottom and coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus he made both of them for the two corners.30 So there were eight boards and their sockets -- sixteen sockets of silver -- two sockets under each of the boards. 31 And he made bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle,32 five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle on the far side westward.33 And he made the middle bar to pass through the boards from one end to the other.34 He overlaid the boards with gold, made their rings of gold to be holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

- Here they are constructing the frame and walls of the Tabernacle, and again, they are doing it exactly as they were told to in chapter 26.

35 And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim.36 He made for it four pillars of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, with their hooks of gold; and he cast four sockets of silver for them. 37 He also made a screen for the tabernacle door, of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver, 38 and its five pillars with their hooks. And he overlaid their capitals and their rings with gold, but their five sockets were bronze.

- Now they make the veil and build the four pillars along with the screen with its five pillars with all the materials that had been given.

37:1 Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.2 He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it.3 And he cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners: two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it.4 He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.5 And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

- Now Bezalel who was appointed and anointed to build the Ark of the Covenant begins constructing it along with the poles to carry it.

6 He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width.7 He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat:8 one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two ends of one piece with the mercy seat.9 The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.

- This is the mercy seat that will cover the Ark of the Covenant along with the cherubim that would be placed at each end of the Ark.

10 He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height.11 And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it.12 Also he made a frame of a handbreadth all around it, and made a molding of gold for the frame all around it.13 And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that were at its four legs.14 The rings were close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table.15 And he made the poles of acacia wood to bear the table, and overlaid them with gold.16 He made of pure gold the utensils which were on the table: its dishes, its cups, its bowls, and its pitchers for pouring.

- We now move into the articles that were located in the Holy Place and here we start first with the Table of Showbread.

17 He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece.18 And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.19 There were three bowls made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower -- and so for the six branches coming out of the lampstand.20 And on the lampstand itself were four bowls made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower.21 There was a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches extending from it.22 Their knobs and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold.23 And he made its seven lamps, its wick-trimmers, and its trays of pure gold.24 Of a talent of pure gold he made it, with all its utensils.

- This is the Lampstand which was placed adjacent the Table of Showbread and was the only source of light in the Tabernacle.

25 He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit and its width a cubit -- it was square -- and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it.26 And he overlaid it with pure gold: its top, its sides all around, and its horns. He also made for it a molding of gold all around it.27 He made two rings of gold for it under its molding, by its two corners on both sides, as holders for the poles with which to bear it.28 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. 29 He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer.

- This is both, the Altar of Incense, anointing oil and incense, and again, it's exactly as the Lord had commanded that it be made.

38:1 He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood; five cubits was its length and five cubits its width -- it was square -- and its height was three cubits.2 He made its horns on its four corners; the horns were of one piece with it. And he overlaid it with bronze.3 He made all the utensils for the altar: the pans, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the firepans; all its utensils he made of bronze.4 And he made a grate of bronze network for the altar, under its rim, midway from the bottom.5 He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, as holders for the poles.6 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with bronze.7 Then he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to bear it. He made the altar hollow with boards.

- This is the Altar of Burnt Offering which was where the sacrifices had to be made in the outer courts.

8 He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 9 Then he made the court on the south side; the hangings of the court were of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long.10 There were twenty pillars for them, with twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.11 On the north side the hangings were one hundred cubits long, with twenty pillars and their twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.12 And on the west side there were hangings of fifty cubits, with ten pillars and their ten sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.13 For the east side the hangings were fifty cubits.14 The hangings of one side of the gate were fifteen cubits long, with their three pillars and their three sockets,15 and the same for the other side of the court gate; on this side and that were hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.16 All the hangings of the court all around were of fine woven linen.17 The sockets for the pillars were bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver, and the overlay of their capitals was silver; and all the pillars of the court had bands of silver.18 The screen for the gate of the court was woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. The length was twenty cubits, and the height along its width was five cubits, corresponding to the hangings of the court.19 And there were four pillars with their four sockets of bronze; their hooks were silver, and the overlay of their capitals and their bands was silver.20 All the pegs of the tabernacle, and of the court all around, were bronze.

- Here we have the bronze laver which was used for cleansing. Interesting to note that the women gave their bronze mirrors.

21 This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which was counted according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest. 22 Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD had commanded Moses.23 And with him was Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer, a weaver of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine linen.

- Here we have the leaders from the Tribe of Levi that would perform the duties and manage the resources of the Tabernacle.

- Once commentator suggests that the materials used in the tabernacle would have totaled millions of dollars by today's standards.

- I suppose you could say that they had quite a responsibility to be overseeing that amount of money.

24 All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy place, that is, the gold of the offering, was twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.25 And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation was one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary:26 a bekah for each man (that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty men.27 And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil: one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket.28 Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them. 29 The offering of bronze was seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels.30 And with it he made the sockets for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils for the altar,31 the sockets for the court all around, the bases for the court gate, all the pegs for the tabernacle, and all the pegs for the court all around.

- This is where we have the inventory of how much gold, silver and bronze they had in their possession.

39:1 Of the blue, purple, and scarlet thread they made garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 2 He made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. 3 And they beat the gold into thin sheets and cut it into threads, to work it in with the blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and the fine linen, into artistic designs. 4 They made shoulder straps for it to couple it together; it was coupled together at its two edges. 5 And the intricately woven band of his ephod that was on it was of the same workmanship, woven of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 6 And they set onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold; they were engraved, as signets are engraved, with the names of the sons of Israel. 7 He put them on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- This is the Ephod which was to be for the High Priest.

8 And he made the breastplate, artistically woven like the workmanship of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. 9 They made the breastplate square by doubling it; a span was its length and a span its width when doubled. 10 And they set in it four rows of stones: a row with a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald was the first row; 11 the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; 12 the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold in their mountings. 14 There were twelve stones according to the names of the sons of Israel: according to their names, engraved like a signet, each one with its own name according to the twelve tribes. 15 And they made chains for the breastplate at the ends, like braided cords of pure gold. 16 They also made two settings of gold and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. 17 And they put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate. 18 The two ends of the two braided chains they fastened in the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front. 19 And they made two rings of gold and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which was on the inward side of the ephod. 20 They made two other gold rings and put them on the two shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod. 21 And they bound the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it would be above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and that the breastplate would not come loose from the ephod, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- This was the very detailed and even elaborate breastplate that was to be worn by the High Priest.

22 He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue. 23 And there was an opening in the middle of the robe, like the opening in a coat of mail, with a woven binding all around the opening, so that it would not tear. 24 They made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, and of fine woven linen. 25 And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates: 26 a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe to minister in, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 27 They made tunics, artistically woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons, 28 a turban of fine linen, exquisite hats of fine linen, short trousers of fine woven linen, 29 and a sash of fine woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, made by a weaver, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 30 Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD. 31 And they tied to it a blue cord, to fasten it above on the turban, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- These are the tunics, turbans, and clothing for the priests, then we have the turban that was to be worn by the High Priest.

32 Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did. 33 And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings: its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 34 the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of badger skins, and the veil of the covering; 35 the ark of the Testimony with its poles, and the mercy seat; 36 the table, all its utensils, and the showbread; 37 the pure gold lampstand with its lamps (the lamps set in order), all its utensils, and the oil for light; 38 the gold altar, the anointing oil, and the sweet incense; the screen for the tabernacle door; 39 the bronze altar, its grate of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the laver with its base; 40 the hangings of the court, its pillars and its sockets, the screen for the court gate, its cords, and its pegs; all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; 41 and the garments of ministry, to minister in the holy place: the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister as priests.

- Here we have a summary of sorts, of everything that was built. It's almost like a quality control inspection as it is brought to Moses.

42 According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. 43 Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.

- So, Moses does his quality control inspection then were told that he actually blesses them. We don't know how we just know that.

- And, so it should be. The result of one's obedience to do all the Lord has commanded is a blessing. An obedient life is a blessed life.